



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEY YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

October 21, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE

Bill Signings of County Interest

This month, President Bush signed the following bills of County interest:

Railroad Safety Improvement Act: H.R. 2095 (Public Law 110-432), a County-supported bill, requires "positive train control" systems to be installed for most passenger service and freight trains by the end of the year 2015, authorizes \$50 million annually through Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2013 for a new rail safety technology grant program, and reduces the number of hours that freight train crews may work each month.

Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act: H.R. 6893 (Public Law 110-351), major foster care and adoptions legislation, gives states the option to use Title IV-E funds for kinship guardianship assistance for foster children placed with relative caretakers and to provide foster care, kinship guardianship, and adoption assistance to children up to age 21. The bill also includes provisions to expand eligibility for Title IV-E adoption assistance, expand the eligible uses of Title IV-E training funds, and require child welfare agencies to make reasonable efforts to place siblings together, address educational stability in each foster child's case plan, coordinate health services for foster children with Medicaid agencies, and help each emancipating foster youth to develop a transition plan.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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DNA Backlog Grant Reauthorization Bill: H.R. 5057 (Public Law 110-360) reauthorizes the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program at an annual funding level of \$151 million through FFY 2014. This program provides grants to state and local crime laboratories to reduce or eliminate backlogs in the processing DNA samples.

Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Act: H.R. 1532 (Public Law 110-392) seeks to eliminate tuberculosis (TB) through research and development of new drugs and vaccines, prevention, and treatment activities, including demonstration projects to develop regional capabilities to prevent, control, and eliminate the disease and to intensify efforts to reduce TB along the United States-Mexican border and among high-risk populations, such as foreign-born persons. The bill authorizes \$300 million in FFY 2009 with five percent increases in each of the next four fiscal years for such activities.

Personnel Reimbursement for Intelligence Cooperation and Enhancement of the Homeland Security Act: H.R. 6098 (Public Law 110-412) clarifies that state and local governments may use State Homeland Security Grant Program and Urban Area Security Initiative Grant funds to pay the salaries and benefits of intelligence analysts without time limitations and up to 50 percent of their grant awards for personnel and related operational costs.

Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health and Addictions Equity Act of 2008: H.R. 1424 (Public Law 110-343), the financial bailout bill, includes the provisions of legislation to require mental health and substance abuse parity with insurance coverage of physical illnesses. It requires parity with regard to copayments, deductibles, and benefit limits, and does not preempt strong state parity laws.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes: H.R. 1424 (Public Law 110-343), includes full funding of \$367 million a year for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program for FFYs 2008 through 2012 – an additional \$138 million for FFY 2008 alone. Federal PILT payments to local governments help offset the loss of property taxes due to nontaxable Federal lands. The County's PILT allotment will increase from \$723,127 in FFY 2007 to approximately \$1,235,000 in FFY 2008.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:GK
MAL:MT:lm

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist